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# Editors' blog

## ▶ LOUISE BOURGEOIS AROUND YOUR NECK

In a city where people are pressed for space (and these days, cash), artist-designed jewelry makes an excellent alternative to a wall-hogging canvas. Often overlooked, these collectibles are gaining increasing attention. Aside from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which recently unveiled an [Alexander Calder jewelry exhibition](#), Chelsea's Friedman Benda gallery has just opened a show of artist-designed jewelry entitled *zerocarat*.



*Left, Louise Nevelson Pendant, 1985-86. Painted wood and metal. 20 unique works ranging from \$19,000-\$45,000. Right, Kenny Scharf Starrings (Earrings), 2008. 18k gold, diamonds, pearls and enamel, \$6,000.*

The show features 34 one-of-a-kind and limited-edition pieces (all for sale) from major artists like Louise Nevelson, Kenny Scharf, Louise Bourgeois and Kiki Smith. We'd wear one of Nevelson's unique wood-and-metal *Pendants* (1985-6), which stand out for their chunky, puzzle-like parts and varying textures. We also love how Scharf infuses his cartoon-like *Starrings* earrings (2008) and *Speedy* necklace (2007) with the same playfulness found in his art. And for an art-as-jewelry-as-art twist, [private jewelry dealer](#) Sara Benda, who organized the show, points to a gold Ettore Sottsass necklace, saying, "you could even hang it on your wall."

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*Louise Bourgeois Collar, designed 1947/48. Silver.*

The show is on display at the [Friedman Benda gallery](#) through January 9, 2009.

By [Maura M Lynch](#)

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